

much research and testing is still required before some are commercially viable. That is why the NextEnergy Center is so important and will play a vital role in developing breakthroughs.

By working with the automotive, electric power and defense industries, NextEnergy offers an exciting mix of opportunities. I am pleased that companies from Minnesota, New York, Texas and other states recognize the value of this effort and are signing up to do business.

The commitment to alternative energy innovation will ultimately address the needs of consumers, train a new generation of workers and lay the foundation for technologies in the marketplace. The future is bright for NextEnergy and I am pleased to be a supporter.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2133, SCHOOL READINESS
ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, since I have been in Congress, I have been a consistent supporter of Head Start. This program assists over 900,000 children and their families nationwide, including the 1,421 children enrolled in 6 Head Start programs in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Thanks to this program, children enrolled in Head Start in the district are nearly twice as likely as other low-income children to receive basic medical care and over three times as likely to receive dental care. In the Third Congressional District, 77 percent of Head Start children have received basic primary health care, and 76 percent have a continuous, accessible source of dental care. The program has also provided mental health services to over 150 children in the district and has provided assistance to 200 children with disabilities.

I commend the Education and Workforce Committee for working in a bipartisan manner, by reporting legislation that did not include provisions that prevented similar legislation from being enacted in the 108th Congress. Specifically, the Education and Workforce Committee did not include language permitting faith based organizations to discriminate on the basis of religion, which was part of similar legislation in the 108th Congress.

During the debate on H.R. 2123, the House adopted an amendment offered by Representative JOHN BOEHNER, which permits faith based organizations to make hiring decisions based on a person's religion. I cannot, therefore, vote for H.R. 2123 because it undermines fundamental civil rights protections against employee discrimination for Head Start teachers and volunteers. Since the inception of Head Start, this civil rights protection has allowed for religious organizations to participate in programs, while maintaining constitutional and civil rights standards. I appreciate the important contributions faith based organizations make to the education of thousands of students, through participating in the Head Start program. If the repeal of existing civil rights protections becomes law, then teachers

or parent volunteers could lose their jobs based solely on their religion.

The Head Start program provides essential early childhood education services, and I will continue to support its important work. I cannot, however, vote for this legislation that permits discrimination in hiring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, due to preparations for Hurricane Rita in my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Friday, September 22, 2005.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote number 488 (Sauder Amendment to H.R. 2123), 489 (Stearns Amendment to H.R. 2123), 491 (Musgrave Amendment to H.R. 2123), 492 (Boehner Amendment to H.R. 2123), and Rollcall vote number 493 (Final Passage of H.R. 2123, School Readiness Act). I strongly support these amendments and the bill because they take important steps to prepare children for success in school.

I also ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote number 490 (Davis (D-IL) Amendment to H.R. 2123).

**TRIBUTE TO THE TEAM OF CIVILIAN
ENGINEERS STATIONED AT
THE COLD WEATHER TEST DE-
TACHMENT, IN LADD, ALASKA**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the team of civilian engineers stationed at the Cold Weather Test Detachment, in Ladd, Alaska during World War II. I first became aware of the significant contributions of the engineers at Ladd Field through the first hand accounts of my constituent, Mr. Paul J. Burchett.

From 1942 to 1945, Mr. Burchett and his colleagues served at the Cold Weather Test Detachment in Ladd, Alaska. Civilian employees, Mr. Burchett and his colleagues voluntarily worked alongside our servicemen during the war. They endured extreme weather conditions and worked to ensure the safety of our pilots and our planes in the frigid temperatures of Alaska. The contribution that Mr. Burchett and his colleagues made to support the war effort will not be forgotten. Even today, their innovative work is still used for both commercial and military applications.

While at Ladd Field, Mr. Burchett's commanding officer, Colonel R. Stewart, highly praised Mr. Burchett, and his work. In a report to Mr. Burchett's company, Stewart wrote, "As a result of his diligence and interest, Mr. Burchett was most helpful in assisting maintenance personnel of this organization. As a result of his efforts, many of the problems which were experienced were readily overcome, thus averting a serious loss of time. Mr. Burchett was keenly interested in his work, and spent many hours over the normal working day in accomplishing his mission."

After World War II, Mr. Burchett worked as a professor at Pasadena City College for 35 years. While there, he continued to develop after-war designs for experimental aircraft. Mr. Burchett helped develop aircraft for Lockheed from 1937-1959. While working for Lockheed, Mr. Burchett helped develop the first working jet fighter.

Mr. Burchett, now 90 years of age, has led a remarkable life. Until recently his work at Ladd Field was classified. This is why I now wish to recognize that work and commend Mr. Burchett on a lifetime of dedicated service to his nation. He deserves our respect and gratitude.

**HONORING THOMAS HEALY OF
ALPHAPOINTE ASSOCIATION FOR
THE BLIND**

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Healy and Alphapointe Association for the Blind, who will retire from the organization September 30, 2005. During his 25 year tenure as President and CEO, Thomas has been the guiding force behind Alphapointe's flourishing as a nonprofit organization in the Greater Kansas City community.

Mr. Healy has been a community leader at Alphapointe for his 34 years with the organization, and as President and CEO helped Alphapointe achieve heights worthy of praise by the organization's founder, Catherine Hale.

To understand how deeply Mr. Healy has touched the Greater Kansas City community, we must all understand what a unique company he has been leading. Founded in 1911 and originally incorporated as the Kansas City Association for the Blind in 1916, Alphapointe was first a group of blind men and women who gathered together for company and recreation. Originally a social organization, Alphapointe has expanded its sense of purpose to provide not only needed social services like rehabilitation and educational services, but also jobs.

Today, the company proudly manufactures over 30 million plastic bottles for pharmaceuticals and over 11 million writing instruments each year. It is not the volume or product of Alphapointe's production that makes it unique; it is the composition of the company's employee base. Over half of the employees, from management to custodial staff, are blind or disabled. Remaining true to its foundation, Alphapointe continues to provide a place of community for all. Under his leadership and guidance, Thomas has helped this vital organization grow from a company of 55 employees to more than 160 earning more than \$20 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in saluting Mr. Thomas Healy and Alphapointe Association for the Blind for their years of dedicated service to the City of Kansas City, Missouri and the surrounding metropolitan community. Thank you Thomas, we will miss seeing you at the helm, but know you will continue to be an advocate and guided voice in our area as a member of Alphapointe's Advisory Board of Directors.